# *Chapter 10 - Data Qualification*

Data stored in SWQMIS must be collected or acquired under a TCEQ approved Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) or Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).  Each quality assurance (QA) document sets forth Data Quality Objectives (DQOs) for the data generated by the monitoring project.  These DQOs establish the minimum data quality acceptable for the project.  However, because SWQMIS is an archival repository for the agency's surface water quality data, any data stored may be used by a variety of users with diverse purposes.  Because of this, it is strongly encouraged that all data are stored in SWQMIS, and any data not meeting the DQOs set forth in the quality assurance document are qualified accordingly[1].  Data then becomes readily available in SWQMIS for all system users.  Those users may then ascertain whether the data are of sufficient quality for their intended use.

Data Management and Analysis (DM&A) qualifies data that has not met DQOs using the data qualifier codes listed in Appendix E of this document.  If a program area discovers data stored in SWQMIS that should be qualified, a Data Correction Request should be submitted to DM&A so that the qualifier can be added in SWQMIS.  DM&A will work with the program area that originally submitted the data before qualifying that data.

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[1] Data should be submitted to SWQMIS in accordance with the quality assurance document under which the data is collected.  Not all QA documents allow qualified data to be submitted to SWQMIS.